

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention relates a communication system and, more particularly, to keyed systems that govern access to and operation of devices, and more particularly to rule-based operation and service provider authentication of a keyed system.

Please replace the paragraph(s) beginning on page 51, line 1 (Abstract of the Disclosure), with the following rewritten paragraph(s):

RULE BASED OPERATION AND SERVICE PROVIDER  
AUTHENTICATION FOR A KEYED SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A keyed authentication system and method employing rule based operation and service provider authentication techniques are described herein to provide provided for governing access and/or operation privileges for use environments such as vehicles, buildings, homes, computers, equipment, and intelligence. Broadly speaking, the system employs the use of an access device, including an identification tag, which may be validated by an authentication device to grant specific access and/or operation privileges to the controlled use environment. The identification tag encoded on the access device may be aligned with a set of rules that establish the level of access and/or operation for each unique identification tag. An application service provider may maintain the plurality of identification tags and associated rule sets and authorize trusted encoding devices to program the desired identification tags and associated rule sets into the plurality of access and authentication devices within the system.

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